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W. Beaumont [Saint Louis, MO] to St. Martin regarding: account of interference of St. Martin's wife and family in Observations and Experiments, ending this work in 1832, refusal to advance money except for \$50 for planned journey to Saint Louis with Israel Beaumont in June. May 29, 1846

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St Louis mo

K.10

May 29 1846

Alexis.

I rec^d your letter of 23th Apl. inclosed in one from Mr Morrison ~~on the subject of your coming to me again. to fulfil the engagement~~ ^{old} ~~of 1834. or make a new one. when you get here, as the case may be.~~

Now Alexis. it is ^{really} ~~impossible~~ ^{impossible} to go into any discussion about your family. ~~or to~~ ^{to} ~~enumerate~~ ^{to} the repeated instances of disappoint^{ment} ~~that have hitherto~~ ^{that have hitherto} occurred on their account. — I am sorry you now propose the same embarrassment again as a condition to your compliance with my wishes for the fulfilment of your engagement ~~as made in 1834.~~

You know for what I wanted you then. & the reasons for the arrangements made to leave your family — (less than now) — with their friends & relatives in Canada while you came here with me for an expressed purpose. — you know the embarrassment & interruption ~~that have occurred~~ ^{that have occurred} theretofore to the prosecution of my experiments upon you. on account of ^{having your} ~~your~~ family with you.

At Prairie du Chien in 1832. you know your wife became so discontented & determined to go back that you were obliged to yield to her & disappoint me — you know that the constant care, anxiety, and vexations incident to you when your family ^{are} with you ~~unavoidably~~ ^{unavoidably} embarrass & interrupt my observations & experiments upon you & ~~render~~ ^{render} your services to me almost useless & dissatisfactory — it has hitherto done it & it would be the same again — I can conceive no difficulty, unreasonable or cruel, in leaving your family comfortably situated & provided for with their family for the short space of a year or two. while you come to fulfil your obligation to me, faithfully & honestly — it would be more for their comfort & convenience than to come with you. for that time, under all the suffering, privations & exposure ^{unavoidable} ⁱⁿ such a distance of travelling with ^{a family of} children & change of climate — & the inevitable sickness that would ^{to them} ^{be} ^{for} the first year or two. — I should enable you to afford them more support & comfort ^{where they are} ^{while you were} ^{with} me. than you would render, were you with them, or they with you during this time — and during which you could be providing to remove & locate them with you here to much better advantage if you ever come to that conclusion

I should take pleasure in helping you to do so. at proper
time & be liberal if just with you at all times.

& on all occasions -

And now Alexis, I want you ^{to come} on these
or similar conditions - I want you ^{abroad} for one or two years for the special purpose
of uninterrupted observations & experiments
upon your Stomach, which could
not be effected if you had your
family. ^{perhaps} we both know by experience -

Come then at once & you shall not go
unrecompensed. or distressed - leave
your family comfortably situated with
their friends & when you get here I will
if you require exceed it, I will ~~afford~~ ^{afford}
you money from time to time to
omit for their comfort & ~~support~~ ^{support}!

But I cannot again voluntarily
subject myself to defeat & disappointment
by advancing ~~more~~ ^{more} money before ~~you~~ ^{you} I
am sure of your personal presence here & positive
pursuit of your services in fulfilment of your en-
gagement. Unincumbered by any draw back upon
your time or interruption of my observation
& exp't. upon you &c - If you persist in bringing
your family on with you now, you must
raise your own means for their expenses
& not expect ~~that I will~~ ^{me to} support them
after they get here. any farther than your
Salary will go to do it. If you come
without them, I will assist you more,
& at the end of your term, will help
you to bring them on & locate them in
this country if you should wish
& conclude to do so, & in the mean time
without aid you in making provision
for them when they ~~may~~ ^{may} come & make
them comfortable & contented - I will say no
more Alexis - you know my wishes & ~~responsibility~~
& the object I have in view - you have been
with me before & can judge of my
disposition to do justly & liberally by you

I believe you have never been dissatisfied with
what I have done for you. I think you never
will be - Israel my son will be ~~there~~
with you some time in the month of
June. for the express purpose of accompanying
you on here & to defray your ^{necessary} expenses &c. &c.

He will not come prepared to advance you
money - but in the event of your coming
with ^{him} leaving your wife & children there if they
should need 40 or 50 \$ for their immediate
comfort, till you could remit them
from here after your arrival, he will make
arrangement with Mr. Morrison to
furnish it to them - You must
come Atyis with Israel. ~~I will be~~
~~amphibious and satisfied in the end~~
~~with your children there -~~
~~you are contented & your children are~~
~~contented & happy -~~

Yrs in friendship
& good will.

WYB

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To Alfred
May 29 1846